

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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"Living Together in Harmony"

MINUTES

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

12 August 2003

Present: Karen Buckley, Abigail Crouse, Dave Bruckman, Tim Sullivan, Bill Rosebrock., Brett Bragin, Jim Wright (1st alternate) and Harry Cosimano.

Absent: Michael Hedlund (2nd alternate).

I. Opening:

Meeting opened in accordance with the Sunshine Law and Pledge of Allegiance at 1940 hours.

II. Minutes: The minutes of the July 08, 2003 meeting were reviewed. A few changes to the wording of the Sludge Resolution discussion were recommended. On a motion by Mr. Bruckman, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, the revised minutes for July were approved, with all in favor.

III. Correspondence: No correspondence was received.

IV. New Business:

A) Ms. Jennifer Gurdak of the NJDEP Division of Watershed Management attended the meeting to give a presentation about the proposed new stormwater regulations and how they might affect Harmony Township. Ms. Gurdak is the area manager for the Upper Delaware Watershed (WMA 1). She administers 319 grants, and her group provides education and information on non-point source pollution and wastewater and water quality issues. She noted that the wastewater management plan for Harmony Township was last done in 1990. It should be updated every 6 years. She went through a NJDEP slide presentation that described the proposed new stormwater regulations. A copy of the presentation was distributed to all members.

B) Soil Testing Ordinance - A news article that discussed a new Upper Freehold Board of Health soil testing ordinance was distributed. Their ordinance requires a site investigation and soil sampling for all development applications in that township. The environmental reports required are to determine if there are residual pesticides in the soil. All major and minor subdivisions and site plan approvals are subject to the new ordinance. Since Harmony Township has a long history of agricultural land use, an ordinance like this could alleviate potential problems in the future (similar to the situation in Montville, NJ, where nearly 24 homeowners in a luxury development learned that their yards are contaminated with unsafe levels of toxic pesticides left over from when the land was used as an orchard. From an article in the Star-Ledger June 5, 2003). Mr. Bragin made a motion to recommend such an ordinance that the Land Use Board develop a similar ordinance for Harmony Township. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan. All were in favor.

V. Old Business

A) Draft Resolution #2003-03, regarding Harmony Township Environmental Commission's support of the Warren County Environmental Commission Resolution which opposes the use of sludge on farms preserved under the Farmland Preservation Program and other public land, was distributed and reviewed. On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Wright, the Resolution passed as written, with all in favor.

B) Harmony Community Day - September 20th - We got a table for this event, and need volunteers to man the table for a few hours. We also need to resolve the issue of the \$1,000 (to provide a discount to resident that sign up for water testing) with the Township Committee. However, they will not resolve the issue until October. QC labs will have a representative at Community Day. They could even have a lab technician there to go out and collect water samples on that day. The Environmental Commission thought that might not work out, so we should tell them to only have their representative there to take the names of those who want their water tested.

C) Warren County Environmental Commission Dunlap Grant - The Township Committee did not write a letter of support for the Environmental Commission for this grant. It should have been done at the last Township Committee meeting (8/11/03), but they did not write it. We can not apply for the grant without that letter, and the deadline to apply is Friday August 15.

D) Dowel/Centex Homes – All comments on the Centex EIS have been received and Ms. Buckley will put them together and type them up. The US Fish & Wildlife Service's NJ field office in Pleasantville has been contacted regarding the Garrison Road grassland site. Ms. Buckley will send them a USGS quad showing the site location. The land use board will hold the first hearing on this development on August 21. The EIS report will be discussed during the September 3rd land use board meeting.

E) Wind Farm on Scott's Mountain – Nothing new to report.

F) Compilation of Environmental Issues in the Township –No action has been taken on this issue.

After noting that several people were complaining about water runoff issues at last evenings Township Committee meeting, the August meeting of the Harmony Township Environmental Commission was adjourned at 2110 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Brett Bragin, Secretary